United Nations A/C.2/71/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 16
Information and communications technologies for development

Letter dated 18 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a proposal entitled "The Millennium Earth Project", which was drafted by an international non-governmental organization, the Institute for Conscious Global Change.[1]

On 25 September 2015, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

In this context, we would like to highlight some key elements of the Millennium Earth Project:

(a) Technology: uses geographic information systems, GeoDesign and related technologies to integrate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, their related 169 targets and 230 indicators based on different data of all kinds and from all sources;

(b) Representation: visualizing development plans gives power to the voice of the marginalized or underrepresented, including poor communities, resource users and women, who are otherwise excluded from decision-making processes. A visual approach eliminates educational and language barriers and allows everyone to have a chance to join the conversation;

(c) Capacity-building: geospatial education and training via informal (educational games) as well as formal programmes (workshops) for a wide range of target audiences. This allows communities to begin collecting and analysing their own data for planning and development purposes;

(d) Innovation: opportunity for persons to learn how new innovations and the implementation of technology can help communities develop solutions to best meet their needs;

[1] Available from http://www.consciousglobalchange.org/doclib/Millennium%20Earth%20Project%20Proposal_161123.pdf.

Please recycle

(e) Advocating: tracking development targets at the local level allows the raising of awareness of societal issues and challenges and advocacy for change on a range of sustainable development, environmental and social issues;

(f) Social monitoring: creating 3-D spatial models of development plans allows the Millennium Earth Project to be used as a tool to increase transparency and accountability. These catalogued plans show development projects as promised to the community and can be compared to what was actually built.

We consider the Millennium Earth Project proposal to be an effective and helpful instrument in the deliberative process for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 associated targets and 230 indicators.

Therefore, I request that you have the present letter circulated as a document of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16.

(*Signed*) E. Courtenay **Rattray**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations